

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EB-07

AID-05 MC-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /060 W

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O P 141612Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9313

SECDEF IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY

USCINCEUR

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 0671

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BEXP MASS NATO NO SW

SUBJ: AIRCRAFT REPLACEMENT ISSUE

REF: OSLO 337

1. DEFENSE MINISTER FOSTERVOLL INFORMED ME TODAY THAT HE DOES NOT BELIEVE A DECISION WILL BE TAKEN BY THE FOUR MINISTERS AT THE FEBRUARY 17 MEETING IN BRUSSELS. THE MINISTER ADDED THAT THE STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT WAS UNANIMOUS IN ITS ENDORSEMENT OF THE F-16 WHICH EXCELLED IN ALMOST EVERY CATEGORY.

2. SPEAKING TO THE NORWEGIAN SITUATION, FOSTERVOLL CAUTIONED THAT NORWAY WOULD NOT BE PREPARED TO MAKE A DECISION IN ANY EVENT BY FEBRUARY 17 SINCE THE REQUIRED GOVERNMENTAL PROCEDURES AUTHORIZING SUCH A COMMITMENT HAVE NOT YET BEEN UNDERTAKEN. FULL SUPPORT FOR THE F-16 IN NORWAY AMONG THOSE IMMEDIATELY CONCERNED WITH THE
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PROBLEM REMAINS UNDIMINISHED, THE MINISTER ADDED.

3. IN AN INTERESTING ASIDE ON THE AIRCRAFT ISSUE WHICH OCCURRED DURING FOSTERVOLL'S RECENT VISIT TO SWEDEN, THE NORWEGIAN DEFENSE MINISTER QUOTED PRIME MINISTER PALME AS STATING THAT IF BELGIUM AND THE NETHERLANDS DECIDE TO REEVALUATE THE MIRAGE AND THE F-16, HE WOULD INSIST THAT THE VIGGEN ALSO BE INCLUDED. ALTHOUGH PALME ACKNOWLEDGED THE OVERALL SUPERIORITY OF THE F-16 AS A RESULT OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT, THE REPORT ALSO CONFIRMS THAT THE VIGGEN OUTPERFORMED THE MIRAGE IN CERTAIN CATEGORIES AND PALME IS DETERMINED TO PRESS THIS POINT HOME IF A REEVALUATION SHOULD DEVELOP.
BYRNE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, MILITARY EQUIPMENT LOANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975OSLO000671
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750054-0826
From: OSLO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750241/aaaablaa.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: OSLO 337
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 APR 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <15 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AIRCRAFT REPLACEMENT ISSUE
TAGS: BEXP, MASS, NO, SW, NATO
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006